

I am concerned about the impact not only on amateur radio, but also on shortwave listening, not only now, but also during disasters or times of unrest.

Weak-signal shortwave (HF) radio is the only physical way for individuals to communicate around the world without relying on satellite operators, telephone companies, computer networks, or any equipment other than the transmitter and receiver.

As such, shortwave radio is a cornerstone of freedom and democracy. Remember Radio Free Europe? The same principles still apply.

In peacetime, when everything is working well, the Internet and the telephone network are much better ways to communicate internationally. But everything does not always work well.

If you were in, say, Somalia, you would be quite dependent on weak shortwave signals to stay in touch with the world. Although it is not presently a necessity here, Americans should not have this capability taken away from them.